



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 5, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor, Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – SAND HILL
GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED - SAND HILL GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Sand Hill Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Sand Hill Group Home, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Sand Hill Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Sand Hill Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Sand Hill Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

The Group Home needs to repair the sliding glass patio door and clean the patio area. Additionally, the Group Home needs to clean the ceilings in the dining room and den, clean or paint the walls throughout the house, and clean the bathroom shower door.

The Group Home also needs to maintain current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals, include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans, and maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Eugene Brown, Executive Director, Sand Hill Group Home, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Sand Hill Group Home
12108 South Normandie Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90043
Telephone: 323.777.5588
License Number: 191801773
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Sand Hill Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The front yard is clean. However, the sliding glass patio door is cracked and the patio has dog hair, dust, and other debris.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. The common quarters are neat. However, the walls throughout the house and the ceilings in the dining room and den are dirty. The bathroom shower door has a build up of lime.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. However, the walls are dirty. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Sand Hill Group Home management:

- a. Repair or replace the sliding glass patio door.**
- b. Clean the patio area.**
- c. Clean or paint the walls throughout the house.**

- d. Clean the ceilings in the dining room and den.
- e. Clean the bathroom shower door.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current, comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Sand Hill Group Home management:

- a. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.
- c. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.
- d. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.



April 26, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Dept. of Auditor-Controller
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2766

To Carla Carr, Children's Group Home Ombudsman

We are providing you with a response to the corrective action plan dated March 22, 2007.

1. Area of Review: Facility and Environment

- A. Clean the back patio, including the eaves.
- B. Clean or paint the walls throughout the house
- C. Clean the ceilings in the dining room and den
- D. Clean the shower door.
- E. Repair the patio sliding glass door.

Corrective Action Plan:

The back patio and the eaves have been cleaned. The walls have been washed down. The ceilings are in the process of being cleaned. (by May 1st) The shower door has been cleaned and the sliding glass door has been repaired. The person responsible for making sure this is implemented is the administrator, LaRonica Whitehurst.

2. Area of Review: Program Services

- A. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.
- B. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.
- C. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- D. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Corrective Action Plan:

A. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.

Sand Hill Group Home will develop each child's initial Needs and Services Plan within the first 30 days of placement. The NSP will be updated every 90 days from the initial placement date.

Sand Hill Group Home administrative staff has developed a chart for the LCSW to follow which specifies the due dates for each child's Needs and Service Plans. The chart/schedule was implemented effective April 2007.

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(Continued)

The Group Home administrator will ensure that the corrections will be maintained as intended.

B. & C. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSP.

Sand Hill Group Home administrator and clinician will work in conjunction with the children's authorized representatives (CSW) to develop thorough Needs and Services Plans. The NSP's will be comprehensive, specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-limited; it will include short and long term goals. Input from other service providers (therapists, psychiatrists, tutors, emancipation, independent living and other resource professionals), teachers and input from the child will be included in the development and update of the NSP.

The Group Home administrator, clinician, the child's authorized representative, other service providers and relevant adults comprise the treatment team. Their input and participation will be documented.

The Group Home clinician and Group Home administrator will ensure that the Needs and Services Plans will be improved as noted.

The Group Home administrator will ensure that the corrections will be maintained as implemented.

D. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Sand Hill Group Home administrator and Group Home clinician will maintain logs to track and record each child's meetings, appointments and interactions with service professionals and clinicians.

The Group Home administrator will implement use of the logs

The Group Home administrator will ensure that the logs are utilized and accurate records of the children's treatment services are maintained.

Submitted by,
LaRonica Whitehurst
LaRonica Whitehurst
Administrator